

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A developing method, comprising the steps of:

carrying one-component non-magnetic toner on a developer carrier;

pressing the one-component non-magnetic toner by a regulating member so as to regulate a transporting quantity of the one-component non-magnetic toner ~~so that~~ and to charge the one-component non-magnetic toner ~~is charged~~;

forming an electrostatic latent image on an image carrier;

providing the one-component non-magnetic toner to the electrostatic latent image so as to convert the electrostatic latent image into a visible toner image; and

controlling the one-component non-magnetic toner on the developer carrier so that the one-component non-magnetic toner pressed by the regulating member satisfies the following relationship:

$$B/A \leq 1$$

where A represents a width [μm] of a particle size distribution of the one-component non-magnetic toner; and B represents a width [fC] of a charge quantity distribution of the one-component non-magnetic toner.

2. (original): The developing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the control step is performed to satisfy the following relationship;

$$a > b$$

where a represents a particle size [μm] in a particle size segment having a largest particle count in the particle size distribution of the one-component non-magnetic toner; and b represents a particle size [μm] in a particle size segment having a largest particle count in the particle size distribution in every charge quantity segment.

3. (currently amended): The developing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the control step is performed to satisfy a relation that ~~a ratio~~an amount of toner ~~of reverse~~having a polarity opposite to the desired polarity of the ~~in the charge quantity distribution of the one-~~ component non-magnetic toner is less than 5%.

4. (original): The developing method as set forth in claim 3, wherein the control step is performed to satisfy a relation that a toner particle count in a charge quantity segment having a largest particle count in the charge quantity distribution in every particle size segment is 10% or higher of total toner.

5. (original): The developing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein at least one of kinds, resin composition and shape of the toner base particles of the one-component non-magnetic toner is determined in the control step.

6. (original): The developing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein at least one of kinds and quantities of the extraneous additives added to the one-component non-magnetic toner is determined in the control step.

7. (original): The developing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein a surface material of the developer carrier is determined in the control step.

8. (original): The developing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein a regulating condition of the regulating member is determined in the control step.

9. (original): The developing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the transporting quantity of the one-component non-magnetic toner is determined in the control step.

10. (currently amended): An image forming method, comprising the steps of:
carrying a one-component non-magnetic toner on a developer carrier;
pressing the one-component non-magnetic toner by a regulating member so as to regulate a thickness thereof and to charge ~~so that the one-component non-magnetic toner is charged~~;
forming an electrostatic latent image on an image carrier;
providing the one-component non-magnetic toner to the electrostatic latent image so as to convert the electrostatic latent image into a visible toner image;

controlling the one-component non-magnetic toner on the developer carrier so that the one-component non-magnetic toner pressed by the regulating member satisfies the following relationship:

$$B/A \leq 1$$

where A represents a width [μm] of a particle size distribution of the one-component non-magnetic toner; and B represents a width [fC] of a charge quantity distribution of the one-component non-magnetic toner; and

transferring the visible image so as to form an image.

11. (original): The image forming method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the method uses an image forming apparatus having no cleaner mechanism that cleans waste toner remaining on the image carrier after the transferring step.